

Mahatma Eye Research Foundation (MERF)

A Charitable Initiative of Puthalath Eye Hospital

Mahatma Eye Research Foundation (MERF) is the charitable wing of **Puthalath Eye Hospital**, dedicated to preventing avoidable blindness and making quality eye care accessible to all. Through community outreach, education, research, and rehabilitation, MERF strives to ensure that no individual loses vision due to lack of awareness, timely diagnosis, or access to treatment. Our initiatives extend beyond hospital walls, reaching schools, workplaces, rural communities, and underserved populations.

Our Focus Areas

➤ VISION - 2020

An eye health check-up card distribution was conducted for the public / common people [Drivers, Sales Staff etc] under World Health Organisation in association with Puthalath Eye Hospital & MERF.

➤ SANTHWANA SANGEETHA SANDHYA

On behalf of World Sight Day, Puthalath Eye Hospital conducted a musical night named ‘Santhwana Sangeetha Sandhya’ at Mananchira Square in association with MERF & Sports Council. Mr. M. Jayachandran was the chief guest for the programme.

➤ VIDHYARAMBAM VAYANARAMBHAM

As a part of Navarathri (Vijayadashami) celebration, Puthalath Eye Hospital conducted ‘Vidhyarambam’ for the blind children, in association with MERF. The programme was inaugurated by the cine artist Mr. Sreenivasan.

➤ READING WITHOUT SEEING

The biggest challenge for the people with visual disability is reading and writing. Now this is possible as a sighted person for a person with vision loss by the evolving of modern assistive technologies. Puthalath Eye Hospital along with MERF was conducted a one day workshop

‘READING WITHOUT SEEING’ in conjunction with Chakshumathy Assistive Technology centre and Bookshare Accessible Library.

➤ **KARUNAM**

"Remember, Blindness is not the end of life, it is the big beginning of a new exciting life." MERF in association with Puthalath Eye Hospital started a programme ‘KARUNAM – Lend a hand’ with technical support by Chakshumathy (Trivandrum) & Jyothirgamaya (TVM).

➤ **ROAD SURAKSHA - KAZHCHA PARISHODANAYODOPPAM**

PEH along with MERF conducted a programme on Road Suraksha - Kazhcha Parishodanayodoppam in association with Motor Vehicle Dept. This programme was created awareness among people who are coming for eye examination for the purpose of driving licence. The programme was inaugurated by Hon. Minister of Transport Sri. A. K. Saseendran in the presence of Sri. Rajeev Puthalath, Joint Transport Commissioner.

➤ **“I SEE” PROJECT**

We have the privilege of conducting the school screening for school children between 7 to 17 years, the concept named ‘I SEE’ Project was launched at the district level screened 36,000 school students in and around Calicut.

➤ **LAYANILAVU – A MUSICAL NIGHT**

Puthalath Eye Hospital conducted a melodious musical night evening titled LAYANILAVU with Mr. M. Jayachandran & team @ Town Hall, CLt.

➤ **NETHRANADHURYAM**

As per the call of WHO in connection with World Diabetes Day, Kozhikode Corporation, MERF & PEH organized a comprehensive diabetes-related eye screening camp [Diabetic Retinopathy Camp].

As part of the preliminary activities for early detection of diabetes, a training workshop for paramedical staff was conducted. Also, a conference was conducted for diabetologists on the topic "Diabetic Retinopathy Updates 2024". A national CME "Dia Beat - 2025" was conducted. To aim at advancement in diagnosis & management techniques, it is essential to stay updated for detecting this preventable cause of blindness and to optimise patient outcome.

As the charitable arm of Puthalath Eye Hospital, MERF is committed to serving economically disadvantaged individuals by improving access to quality eye care, supporting community welfare, and promoting the prevention of avoidable blindness.